

MAR 05 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES THAT HELP
LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS MEET FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY AND
FOOD SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

1 WHEREAS, food safety and food security are immediate and
2 pressing concerns for many Hawaii consumers, producers, farmers,
3 and retailers; and
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5 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration
6 Food Safety Modernization Act, P.L. 111-353, which requires full
7 compliance with food safety and food security standards by 2013,
8 has created a problem for local agricultural producers and
9 value-added producers; and
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11 WHEREAS, food safety is critical for Hawaii's survival and
12 security; the burden of importing food is increasing; and there
13 is a need for the State to be self-sustainable; and
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15 WHEREAS, full compliance with the Food Safety Modernization
16 Act's requirements will allow local agricultural producers and
17 value-added producers to access international and domestic
18 markets, thereby strengthening the agribusiness industry, and
19 help protect children and persons with compromised immune
20 systems from food borne illnesses; and
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22 WHEREAS, complying with federal food safety standards is
23 critical to agribusiness in Hawaii; and
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25 WHEREAS, state and federal agencies; produce farmers; and
26 the retail business community, including many non-governmental
27 organizations that deliver pivotal services to the people of
28 Hawaii by providing meals, are concerned and confused about the
29 future of agriculture in Hawaii; and
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31 WHEREAS, one such organization, the East Hawaii Community
32 Development Corporation, a tax exempt organization under section



1 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, is striving to provide
 2 short-term and long-term solutions to food safety and food
 3 security issues, including research and development on a large
 4 scale and establishing a modern food-safety certified facility
 5 offering food processing, distribution, technology, and
 6 education; and
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8 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii and the United States face an
 9 economic downturn that has created challenges to providing
 10 adequate funding for programs addressing food safety and food
 11 security; now, therefore;
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
 14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
 15 House of Representatives concurring, that this body supports
 16 efforts by non-governmental organizations to develop
 17 opportunities and solutions with local agricultural producers
 18 and value-added food processors to enhance food safety and food
 19 security practices; and
 20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 23 Board of Agriculture; Director of Health; Director of Business,
 24 Economic Development, and Tourism; and Director of Human
 25 Services.
 26
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OFFERED BY:

Will Eyo

Rosa Bl

Haun Thul
Joe Alana Jr
Enzanne Chun Akelael

Randy de Beer

John M
James L. Sten

